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**Proclamation 7937—National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 2005**

*September 30, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Across America, individuals with disabilities are making important contributions in the workplace. This month, we celebrate their accomplishments and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the opportunities of America are available and accessible to every citizen.

Fifteen years ago, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), reducing barriers for millions of Americans with disabilities and providing a mandate for the elimination of discrimination in the workplace and in the community. Since the ADA was enacted, people with disabilities have been able to participate more fully in the workforce, and our Nation has become stronger and more just. Yet more work remains, and we continue our efforts to enable Americans with disabilities to live and work with greater freedom.

In the spirit of the ADA, my Administration's New Freedom Initiative has expanded access to assistive technologies, education, and opportunities for people with disabilities to integrate into the workforce. I signed into law legislation that improves the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to ensure that our young people with disabilities are prepared for the many opportunities ahead. Through these and other efforts, we are working to ensure that Americans with disabilities can realize the promise of America.

To recognize the contributions of Americans with disabilities and to encourage all citizens to ensure equal opportunity in the workforce, the Congress, by joint resolution approved as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), has

designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 2005 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon Government officials, labor leaders, employers, and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:56 a.m., October 4, 2005]

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**Proclamation 7938—National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2005**

*September 30, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

We are making progress in the fight against violence in the home. Over the past decade, the domestic violence rate has declined by an estimated 59 percent. But much work remains to be done. My Administration remains committed to preventing domestic abuse by supporting victims and punishing offenders. We have secured historic levels of funding for the Violence Against Women programs at the Department of Justice, presided over an increase in Federal prosecutions for crimes of violence against women, and implemented a program to help fund transitional housing for victims fleeing domestic abuse.

To increase access to comprehensive support and services for victims of domestic violence, in 2003 I announced the creation of the Family Justice Center Initiative. These

centers bring together police officers, attorneys, counselors, doctors, victims' advocates, chaplains, and others so that domestic violence victims can more easily find the help and support they need. The Department of Justice has awarded over \$20 million to support the creation of 15 Family Justice Centers across the country, and several of these centers have already opened their doors and are making a difference in victims' lives.

Faith-based and community organizations are also making vital contributions in the effort to combat domestic violence. These organizations are fostering an environment where victims can step out of the shadows and get the help and care they need. Through initiatives like the Faith-Based and Community Organization Rural Pilot Program and the Safe and Bright Futures for Children Initiative, the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services are providing funding to support these organizations in their life-changing work.

I appreciate all those who work to end domestic violence and to protect vulnerable members of our society. By working together, we continue to build a society that respects the life and dignity of every person.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2005 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to help victims of domestic violence and help to make ending domestic violence a national priority.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

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## **Proclamation 7939—Child Health Day, 2005**

*September 30, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Children are a precious gift, and we have a responsibility to help them realize a hopeful and promising future. On Child Health Day, we underscore the importance of healthy and active lifestyles for our Nation's young people, and we reaffirm our commitment to helping them use their gifts to work toward a successful future.

We have high aspirations for all our Nation's children. Parents play the central role in ensuring the health and well-being of their children and in creating a safe and nurturing environment. Schools, communities, and government leaders can support the work of parents by helping to build a society based on the fundamental values of respect, honesty, self-restraint, fairness, and compassion. We must all continue to promote a culture of responsibility in which families and communities teach young people to understand that their decisions affect their health now and in the future.

My Administration remains committed to giving parents, teachers, mentors, and communities the resources they need to help children avoid drugs, alcohol, violence, early sexual activity, and other dangerous behaviors. Through the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, we are helping children to overcome the challenges they may face so they can lead healthy lives and realize their full potential.

Young people are America's future leaders, and we can all work to instill the values that sustain a free society. On this day and throughout the year, I urge our citizens to give their time and talents to benefit our Nation's youth.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (36 U.S.C. 105), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as "Child Health Day" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.